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Approved For Release 2002/08/28 : CIA-RDP79B01709A002000050012-3

DIA &amp; NASA REVIEWS COMPLETED

14 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Sanitization and Decontrol of Satellite  
Photography

1. You asked for my comments concerning the position on sanitization and decontrol taken by Mr. McNamara and by Admiral Lowrance in his memorandum of 7 July. *1 attached*

2. I still believe that the intelligence community could adopt with profit the measures contained in the COMOR proposal on sanitization and decontrol. We can probably afford to temporize for a few months longer, and the liberalization of the Sanitization Manual proposed by Admiral Lowrance is a logical next step regardless of the ultimate position taken by the intelligence community. Sooner or later, however, we should adopt our original proposal.

3. COMIREX is proceeding with revisions to the Sanitization Manual which will accomplish many of the substantive objectives contemplated in the original COMOR proposal. None of these measures, however, are likely to satisfy the State Department and others who wish to confirm the fact of satellite reconnaissance at the SECRET level. I suggest, therefore, that you inform Mr. Hughes of these developments before taking a final position on the matter.

4. I concur with <sup>25X1A</sup> point that the problems of sanitization and the acquisition by NASA of sensitive camera systems should be considered separately, although it is essential that any decisions made with regard to NASA's future programs take full account of the NRP and the imagery of the world already collected under that program. *1 attached*

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*(Background papers in hold)*

Chairman

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

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11 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Sanitization and Decontrol of  
Satellite Photography

REFERENCE: Your Memo of 7 July 1967, Same Subject

1. You may recall that, when this subject was discussed within the Agency prior to its consideration by USIB, I expressed strong concern that proposals to decontrol and downgrade TKH materials would lead eventually to total declassification of one of the most valuable sources of U.S. intelligence. I believe that a more prudent course of action at this time would be to effect a greater liberalization of the sanitization process without attribution to source. This is the course which is recommended by the Deputy Director of DIA in his memorandum to the DCI.

2. With regard to your reference to the NASA proposal to acquire certain sensitive camera systems for non-intelligence purposes, I do not feel this to be a subject for discussion within the context of the sanitization and decontrol problem. NASA's proposal is concerned with the acquisition of hardware and not with the control of the product therefrom. This matter has already been discussed informally by the members of the ExCom and I believe it is more appropriately a subject for consideration by that body.

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Special Assistant to the DCI

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7 July 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology  
Special Assistant to DCI [REDACTED]  
Chairman, COMOR (Mr. [REDACTED])

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SUBJECT: Sanitization and Decontrol of Satellite Photography

I am inclined to go along with the position of Secretary McNamara and to seek further liberalization via the sanitization process, per paragraph 5 of the attached, in order to use the results of photography on a more widespread basis. However, before responding to the Director's request for advice, I would appreciate your comments on the subject and on the closely related NASA proposal to acquire certain sensitive camera systems for non-intelligence purposes.

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[REDACTED]  
Rufus Taylor  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Director

SUSPENSE: Noon, 14 July 1967

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



7 JUL 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Sanitization and Decontrol of Satellite Photography

1. Reference: USIB D-41.12/28 dated 23 May 1967
2. I regret the delay in responding to the referenced paper but the proposal for decontrol and downgrading of satellite photography and its products, which was discussed at the meeting of 27 April, and the current paper as written by COMOR on 23 May required full staffing in the Department of Defense. I provided Secretary McNamara with a full explanation of this problem and at the same time advised him of the necessity to amend the August 1960 Presidential memorandum should this proposal be accepted.
3. The Secretary feels that the advantages are not clear at this time and that acceptance of this proposal may erode the advantages which might be gained at some future time of the surfacing of U.S. and Soviet satellite photography.
4. In light of the Secretary's views, I must non-concur in the proposal contained in reference at this time. I am having my Secretariat advise the Board Secretary of my position concurrently with this memorandum to you.
5. It would seem that we could attain many of the desired goals in our current paper through greater liberalization of the sanitization process without attribution to source of our intelligence. For instance, by extending and defining the scope under our present authority, we could authorize sanitization of photography for use in well-defined programs under rigid rules of control. I have a proposal in the COMIREX for staffing now which is designed to do this and permit use of sanitized photography in target folders for crew study and briefing in support of the SIOP. Further, it would seem that liberalization of the use of intelligence derived from satellite sources could also be developed under

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the sanitization process to obtain additional utilization and broader distribution of products. This type approach to the problem would preclude the necessity for Presidential change to the TK system.

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VERNON L. LOWRANCE  
Vice Admiral, USN  
Deputy Director

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